

# Plastic, plastic everywhere ✓

## Green group urges reduction of plastic bag usage

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Beachgoers on Saturday may have glimpsed an unusual sight as they crossed the Powder Point Bridge — trash. Bags and bags of trash.

The trash sculpture was composed of bags of plastic bags, gathered from the town transfer station by the Sustainable Duxbury group. The event was part of a campaign to raise awareness of residents' dependency on plastic bags.

Sustainable Duxbury member Janis Owens said the group has been working on a campaign about bags for months.

"Plastic is such a big issue," she said.

Although many residents may shop with cloth bags, the plastic variety is still in high use. As evidence, Sustainable Duxbury collected 24,150



Sustainable Duxbury Chairman Jim Savicki looks down on a pile of plastic bags collected during one week at the Transfer station.

bags from the transfer station. That represents the number of bags Duxbury residents use in a week. The bags, laid side to side, would cover about half a football field. Over a year, the town throws away enough bags to cover 21 football fields.

Owens says her group is trying to encourage more people to stop using plastic bags. Although many people reuse the bags, they'll still end up in a landfill at some point.

"It's OK, but reducing is better," she said. "It's kind of an inadequate recyclable."

Although some communities have taken more drastic measures, like banning the use

of plastic bags in town, Sustainable Duxbury decided it would rather encourage individual responsibility.

"We're not going to try to push legislation," she said. "We wanted to find a way for people to reduce plastic on their own without being forced to ... Our goal is to encourage wise use."

There are other ways to cut down on plastic besides using cloth shopping bags, Owens said. Mesh produce bags are available, as are reusable velcro bags for things like sandwiches.

"There are so many ways to cut down," Owens said.

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